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# Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-13 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 RSR-01

/160 W
---------- 122485
R 180443Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6121
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14933

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 17 AUGUST 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA ON AUG 17 ACTION EMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0413
E.O. 11652
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 17 AUGUST 1973
1. MR 3 G2 REPORTS 38 MILITARY CLASHES DURING THE 48 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 AUGUST 17; TWENTY-TWO IN THE FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD AND 16 IN SECOND; 12 GROUND ATTACKS, 14 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ONE OVER 20 ROUNDS CAUSING NO INJURIES), TWO COMBINED ATTACKS BY FIRE AND ON GROUND (ONE A DAY-LONG CLASH IN LONG AN PROVINCE), SIX MINE/GRENADE DETONATION (TWO CIVILIAN), ONE SA-7 FIRING 13 KM NE TAY NINH, TAY NINH PROVINCE (NEGATIVE RESULTS), TWO TERRORIST ATTEMPTS IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE (NO INJURIES), AND A SAPPER ATTEMPT ALSO IN HAU NGHIA; TEN IN HAU NGHIA; EIGHT IN BINH DUONG; SIX IN LONG AN, FOUR IN TAY NINH, THREE EACH IN LONG KHANH, PHUOC LONG AND BIEN HOA; AND ONE IN GIA DINH. TOTAL GVN LOSSES WERE FOUR KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN), 16 WOUNDED (ONE CIVILIAN), ONE MIA, AND ONE M-16;
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REPORTED COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 69 KIA, EIGHT WIA/CIA, ONE RALLIER,

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AND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT.
2. THE MOST INTENSE ACTION FOR THE 48 HOUR PERIOD TOOK PLACE NEAR BEN LUC, LONG AN PROVINCE ON AUGUST 16 AND 17, WITH HEAVIEST FIGHTING REPORTED ON THE 17TH. REPORTED LOSSES FOR GVN DURING THIS PERIOD WERE ONE KILLED, SIX WOUNDED, ONE MISSING IN ACTION AND ONE M-16 LOST. COMMUNIST LOSSES REPORTED FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE 60 KIA, 5 CIA/MIA, 26 AK-47'S, FIVE M-16'S, FOUR B-40'S, TWO B-41'S, TWO PISTOLS, TWO MAPS OF CAMBODIA, CHICOM SIGNAL EQUIPMENT, ONE AN PRC-25, AND A SMALL QUANTITY OF DOCUMENTS. MR 3 G-2 DOES NOT IDENTIFY COMMUNIST UNITS INVOLVED; FRIENDLY UNITS WERE ALL RF AND PF. WE ARE UNABLE THUS FAR TO VERIFY INFORMATION INDEPENDENTLY OR TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF CLASHES.
3. COMMUNIST LOUDSPEAKERS BLASTED 64TH RANGER BN, GUARDING RAILROAD REPAIRMEN EAST OF XUAN LOC IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE, FOR "CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS." ANOTHER COMMUNIST LOUDSPEAKER AIMED AT TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP BRANDED AIR RESUPPLY EFFORTS WITHOUT PRG AGREEMENT AS"CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION" WHICH PRG WOULD RETALIATE AGAINST. THIS LOUDSPEAKER ALSO CHARACTERIZED RECENT ONE-RANK PROMOTIONS FOR TONLE CHAM DEFENDERS AND THEIR REPLACEMENTS AS "BRIBERY."
4. THREE-MAN JCRC TEAM, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CONGEN DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, DISTRICT CHIEF, AND LOCAL PEOPLE, SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED REMAINS OF A WHITE AMERICAN MALE NEAR TRANG BANG DISTRICT TOWN, HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, MORNING AUGUST 16. LOCAL RESIDENTS SAY HE WAS SOLDIE
R
KILLED IN 1696 AND DUMPED IN WELL WHICH WAS THEN SEALED. TIP FROM LOCLA SCHOOL TEACHER TO CONGEN DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE, STARTED INVESTIGATION WHICH LED TO SUCCESSFUL OPERATION JCRC DISTRIBUTED MONEY ON THE SPOT TO INFORMANT, PF SQUAD WHO HAD GUARDED SITE AFTER IT WAS OPENED, AND DIGGERS. NOW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORTS MANY MORE LEADS ABOUT OTHER REMAINS, AND HE IS INVESTIGATING.
5. BINH DUONG RRO REPORTS HE HAS HEARD THAT A S MANY AS SIXTY YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 13-18 HAVE GONE OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS SINCE MARCH, PARTICULARLY FROM VINH TRUONG VILLAGE, AND AN HOA HAMLET OF HOA LOI VILLAGE, IN CHAU THANH DISTRICT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THEY HAVE JOINED THE COMMUNISTS VOLUNTARILY. AMONG THOSE LEAVING WAS 14-YEAR-OLD YOUNGER BROTHER OF CHAU THANH DISTRICT CHIEF, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY ABDUCTED.
6. CONGEN LOCAL REPORTS THAT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO COMMUNISTS IN DAI AN VILLAGE, CONG THANH DISTRICT, BIEN HOA PROVINCE ARRESTED A CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIEST FROM GO VAP DISTRICT, SEVERAL LOCAL PEOPLE, AND A BULLDOZER WHICH WAS BEING USED TO CLEAR GROUND FOR RESETTLEMENT OF SOME REFUGEES (PERHAPS THE CATHOLICS FROM CAMBODIA WHO ARE NOW IN TAY NINH, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM WHERE OR HOW MANY). COMMUNISTS RELEASED PEOPLE WITHIN A FEW DAYS, BUT ARE HOLDING BULLDOZER FOR REPORTED 1.5 MILLION PIASTER RANSOM SOMEWHERE IN JUNGLE AREA INTO WHICH THEY HAVE FORBADE LOCAL PEOPLE TO ENTER IN RECENT WEEKS. SPECIAL BRANCH IS INVESTIGATING.

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7. LOCAL BANK OFFICIAL IN LONG AN PROVINCE TOLD LONG AN DEVELOP-
MENT OFFICER THAT HIS VILLAGE CADRE WERE REPORTING THAT
COMMUNISTS IN HAU NGHIA - LONG AN - CAMBODIA BORDER AREA WERE
SELLING RICE THROUGH FARMERS AT 9000$VN PER 100 KILO BAG, COMPARED
WITH 17,000 $VN IN TAN AN. REPORTEDLY THEY BOUGHT THE RICE SIX
MONTHS AGO, AND HELD IT WHILE PRICES IN GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS ROSE,
SO THEY ARE RESELLING AT NO LOSS. COMMUNISTS ARE ALSO OFFERING
PEOPLE A THREE-YEAR TAX HOLIDAY IF THEY MOVE TO PRG-CONTROLLED
AREAS. DRIVEN TO DESPAIR BY "SELLOUT" CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT AND
BY BAD ECONOMICSITUATION IN LONG AN, OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT PERHAP
S
VC HAD INFILTRATED HIGHEST LEVELS OF GVN TO CAUSE CORRUPTION, VAT,
AND PRICES INCREASES WHICH ARE TURNING PEOPLE AGAINST GVN. HE
PREDICTED COLLAPSE OF GVN WITHIN THREE MONTHS.COMMENT: WE CITE
THIS AS EXAMPLE OF CONCERN BEING CAUSED AMONG RESPONSIBLE FIGURES
IN PROVINCES BY BAD ECONOMIC SITUATION. END COMMENT.
8. NOT ALL NEWS FROM LONG AN IS GLOOMY. LONG AN PROVINCE HELD
FAIR AND PSDF EXHIBIT AUGUST 5-12 FOR FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS ON
OLD SOCCER FIELD IN FRONT OF PROVINCE CHIEF'S HOUSE. IT WAS
ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PERSONS PER DAY. MAIN DISPLAY
THEMES WERE LOCAL PRODUCTS, HANDICRAFT AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OF LONG
AN'S SEVEN DISTRICTS, AND SIDESHOWS FROM SAIGON ADDED TO FESTIVE
ATMOSPHERE. LONG AN DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS RATES FAIR A GREAT
SUCCESS.
9. NEWLY ARRIVED TDY FSO CONSUL REVISITING OLD POST IN TRHNUTAM
DISTRICT BINH DUI PROVINCE, FOUND THAT GVN CONTROLLED POPULATION,
13,000 IN EARLY 1972 TO ABOUT 10,000 NOW. LOCAL SOURCES REPORTED
THAT ABOUT 1,500 PEOPLE ARE LIVING UNDER PRG CONTROL IN SOUTHERN
TRIHAM, AND CONSUL SAW PLANTED FIELDS AND HAMLETS IN THIS AREA.
FROM AIR EN ROUTE TRI TAM. HOWEVER, LOCAL SOURCES CLAIM THESE
PEOPLE ARE SLOWLY SLIPPING BACK TO GVN CONTROL. WILKINSAW
MARTIN

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